

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today praised the enactment of a bipartisan economic stimulus plan after President Bush signed the Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act. 5,300,000 families in Ohio will receive tax rebates of up to \$1,200 per couple, plus \$300 per child as early as mid-May. By getting money into the hands of America's families and small businesses, the plan is expected to add 500,000 jobs to the economy.

"This is real relief that temporary, targeted and timely," Wilson said. "The plan signed by the President into law today will give our economy a much needed shot in the arm and help out families who are struggling to make ends meet."

The plan will provide a tax rebate for the low and middle-income families who are being hit hardest by the economic downturn. More than 130 million families will receive a tax rebate. Most taxpayers just need to file a federal 2007 tax return, like they usually do and they will receive their stimulus payments.

There are 35 million working families across the country that make too little to pay income taxes, but under the newly signed Economic Stimulus Plan, those families, along with senior citizens on social security and disabled veterans are eligible for stimulus payments. Those families are not normally required to file a federal return because they have no tax liability. But, an IRS statement today emphasized that all families must file a 2007 tax return to receive a stimulus payment.

"Some of those families, especially those receiving Social Security and veterans' benefits may not be used to filing a federal tax return. But they need to file a 2007 federal return to get a stimulus payment," Wilson said.

With that in mind, Congressman Wilson and the Community Action Commission of Belmont County have teamed up to sponsor a tax assistance/tax preparation workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2008, at the Bridgeport District Office. The office is located at 800 Main Street in Bridgeport, Ohio. Participants are encouraged to bring all appropriate financial documents.

Congressman Wilson has also identified other free tax preparation workshops and clinics offered by organizations throughout the Sixth District. The list follows and will also be available on the Congressman's website at <http://www.charliewilson.house.gov/>.

"I worked to make sure our seniors who only receive social security and our disabled vets did not get left out of this economic stimulus plan," Wilson said. "Now that Congress got them included, I want to make sure they get their rebate checks."

The bipartisan legislation also includes tax cuts for small businesses, doubling the amount small businesses can immediately write off their taxes for capital investments, and encouraging investments in new equipment. Additionally, the plan offers immediate tax relief for all businesses that invest in new plants and equipment by speeding up depreciation provisions, so that firms can write off an additional 50-percent for investments purchased in 2008.

"Small businesses create jobs," Wilson said. "And everyone knows job creation is my top priority."

Importantly, the bipartisan plan also includes provisions to help families avoid losing their homes to foreclosure. The bill expands affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure through the Federal Housing Administration. To enhance credit availability in the mortgage market, the measure also includes a one-year increase in the loan limits for single family homes from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

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Tax assistance will also be offered at alternative locations throughout the district. Find the nearest site and call to make an appointment to receive free assistance:

In the Canfield/Wellsville area:

AARP Sites:

- 1) Canfield Library, 43 W. Main St., Canfield, Ohio 44406 (330) 533-8420
- 2) Austin Library, 600 S. Raccoon Rd, Austintown, Ohio 44515 (330) 792-7224
- 3) Boardman Library, 7680 Glenwood Ave, Youngstown, Ohio 44512 (330) 726-2492
- 4) Senior Citizens Center, 1110 5th Ave, Youngstown, Ohio 44504 (330) 744-5071
- 5) Struthers Public Library, 95 Poland Ave, Struthers, Ohio 44471 (330) 726-2492
- 6) Columbiana County Office on Aging 785 State St., Salem, Ohio 44460 (330) 332-1163

The Ohio Benefit Bank Sites:

- 1) Lutheran Social Services of the Mahoning Valley, 420 Clearmount Drive, Youngstown, Ohio (330) 740-0344
- 2) Stepping into the Future, Inc., 2905 Glenwood Ave., Youngstown, Ohio (330) 259-0279
- 3) Good Hope Lutheran Church, 12030 Market St., North Lima, Ohio (330) 549-2406
- 4) Pointman International Ministries, 243 Main Street, Leetonia, Ohio (330) 427-6909

In the Bridgeport area:

AARP Sites: (None in Jefferson Co.)

- 1) Ohio Valley Mall, Unit 295, St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950 (740) 695-4526
- 2) Colerain Senior Center, State Rt. 250, Colerain, Ohio 43916 (740) 633-6823
- 3) Bellaire Senior Center, 3396 Belmont St., Bellaire, Ohio 43906 (740) 676-9473
- 4) Shadyside Municipal Bldg., Community Rm #6, East 39th Street, Shadyside, Ohio 43947 (740) 676-5972

The Ohio Benefit Bank Sites:

- 1) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 611 Walnut Street, Martins Ferry, Ohio (740) 633-3611
- 2) Community Action Commission of Belmont County, 153 ½ West Main St., St. Clairsville, Ohio (740) 695-0293
- 3) Jefferson County Community Action Council, 114 North 4th St., Steubenville, Ohio (740) 282-0971

In the Marietta area:

AARP Sites:

- 1) Beverly Public Library, McIntosh St., Beverly, Ohio 45750 (740) 984-4060
- 2) O'Neill Senior Center, 333 4th Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750 (740) 373-3914

The Ohio Benefit Bank Sites:

- 1) Caring Connection, 411 Scammel St., Marietta, Ohio (740) 376-9903
- 2) The Appalachian Nutrition Network, 121 Putnam Street, Suite 108, Marietta, Ohio (740) 376-0088
- 3) Caldwell Choice Food Pantry, 315 Main Street, Caldwell, Ohio (740) 732-7570

In the Ironton area:

AARP Sites:

- 1) Park Avenue Apartments – Senior Living (the building our office is located within), 202 Park Ave., Ironton, Ohio 45638 (740) 533-1863
- 2) Southern Branch Library, 317 Solida Rd, South Point, Ohio 45680 (740) 377-2288
- 3) Chesapeake Branch Library, 11054 County Rd. 1, Chesapeake, Ohio 45619

The Ohio Benefit Bank Sites:

1) Jackson-Vinton Community Action-Head Start, 1467 State Rt. 93 South, Jackson, Ohio
(740) 286-8441

On the Internet:

- 1) A free internet tax return service can be found on The Ohio Benefit Bank Web site: www.governor.ohio.gov/obb
- 2) More information on the AARP program can be found at <http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide>